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Contact: John Golden, 610-834-7985  
[golden@valleyforge.org](mailto:golden@valleyforge.org)

## **Family-friendly activities to Mark Washington's Birthday at Valley Forge National Historical Park**

*To include oldest, continuous, annual Boy Scouts gathering in the world*

**Valley Forge, Pa.** — Presidents Day weekend (Feb. 16-18) visitors to Valley Forge National Historical Park can enjoy hands-on activities commemorating the birth of George Washington at the place where it was first celebrated in 1778. At that time, a group of soldiers serenaded the then-46-year old General with music outside his headquarters.

This year, to celebrate his 276<sup>th</sup> birthday, the Park will feature more than 2,000 Boy Scouts, Continental Army re-enactors from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pennsylvania Regiment and a period birthday cake.

On Saturday, February 16, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., boy scouts from six neighboring states will descend upon the Valley Forge Encampment site for the Boy Scouts of America 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary George Washington Birthday Encampment and Pilgrimage -- the oldest continuous annual Boy Scouts event in the world. The scouts will march to several specially-designed, outdoor, themed sites featuring the life and military career of lieutenant colonel John Laurens of Washington's army. Each stop includes discussions on and demonstrations of 18<sup>th</sup> century medicine, the code and practice of dueling, artillery, musket firing, and much more.

On Sunday, February 17, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., visitors can see the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pennsylvania Regiment at the Muhlenberg Brigade (tour stop #2 in the Park) with musket-firing programs and cooking demonstrations. Ranger-led walks to the Muhlenberg Brigade will take place at 10:20am, 12:50pm and 2:20pm with musket and artillery programs at 11am, 1:30pm and 3pm.

On Monday, February 18, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., visitors can meet portrayers of General and Martha Washington in the Welcome Center while listening to period music by the 'Colonial Revelers'. Children can make their own tri-corner hats and design birthday cards for the General at the Encampment Store's 'Kids Corner' from 10 a.m. to noon, followed by Mrs. Washington's presentation of a birthday cake baked from her own original recipe.

Kids may also enlist in the Continental Army, after which General Washington will review and lead the young 'troops' in marching and maneuvering drills executed according to General Von Steuben's training manual. At 1:30 p.m., a 40-minute lecture, entitled "The Superior Wartime Leadership of George Washington," will be presented in the Education Center. Although the talk is geared for older visitors, all are welcome. It will be followed by a ranger-led walk to the Muhlenberg Brigade.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information visit [www.nps.gov/vafo](http://www.nps.gov/vafo); and for information about affordable hotel packages, restaurants, shopping and other attractions in the region, log on to [www.valleyforge.org](http://www.valleyforge.org).

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**Family-friendly activities to Mark Washington's  
Birthday at Valley Forge National Historical Park  
Page 2**

***About Valley Forge National Historical Park***

Valley Forge National Historical Park educates present and future generations of Americans about one of the most defining events in our nation's history by preserving the natural and cultural resources that commemorate the encampment of the Continental Army at Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-78. For more information, call 610-783-1099.

***The Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau, Ltd.*** is a nonprofit, membership-based sales and marketing organization which aggressively promotes the Valley Forge area and Montgomery County as a convention site and leisure visitor destination by encouraging patronage of its 500-plus member hotels, restaurants, attractions and services. The Bureau's web site at [www.valleyforge.org](http://www.valleyforge.org) serves travel consumers, residents, meeting planners and tour operators.

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